



## US Bahá'í Office of Public Information

#####

(Date)

"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE"

### BAHA'I COMMUNITY DRAWS LEADERS' ATTENTION TO RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

Bahá'í Community of (your town)

Contact (Name)

(Title)

(Street Address)

(City or Town, State, Zip)

(Home or Business Phone)

(City or Town, State), (Date)- Concerned about the spread of religious prejudice, the Bahá'í community of (your town or city) has joined hundreds of others across the world to appeal to religious leaders to help overcome religious intolerance.

Focal point of the effort is the presentation of a letter by the world governing body of the Baha'i Faith. In its seven-page message, the Universal House of Justice asserts that religion constitutes the chief civilizing force of history and that its spiritual influence is needed for the advancement of humankind. It is not sufficient merely to appeal for religious tolerance. Instead, religions must accept the reality that they are equal in validity and that spiritual life is equally accessible to all of humanity. It warns about the danger that "the rising fires of religious prejudice will ignite a worldwide conflagration the consequences of which are unthinkable".

Hundreds of leaders in the U.S., representing a broad array of religious organizations and academic institutions, are receiving this historic challenge to renounce the notion of exclusive access to truth that has caused much violence and hatred. The list of recipients includes cardinals, bishops, ministers, rabbis, imams and others. Locally the message is being presented to (... , ..., ...). (You may wish to place a quote by a local Bahá'í leader about the purpose of the campaign here.)

Just as the pernicious biases of gender, race, and nation began to give way over the course of the 20th century, religious prejudice must be urgently addressed if humankind is to achieve peace and security. All too often, organized religion has lent "credibility to fanaticism." Violent eruptions of

such fanaticism "shame the name of religion." The letter goes on to state, "We feel a responsibility, as the governing council of one of the world religions, to urge earnest consideration of the challenge this poses for religious leadership."

Religious leaders are invited to make common cause to reduce biases, lessen conflict, and promote unity throughout the world. Along with their counterparts in other countries they are called upon to promote the underlying truth that "God is one and that, beyond all diversity of cultural expression and human interpretation, religion is likewise one."

(Full text at: <http://www.bahai.org/article-1-1-0-1.html>)

\*\*\* \*\*

[Close Window](#)

[Home](#) | [NSA Departments](#) | [Communications](#) | [Regional Councils](#)  
[Directories](#) | [Media Campaign](#) | [Huquqú'lláh](#) | [Kingdom Project](#) | [Send E-mail](#)

This Web Site © Copyright 2000—The Bahá'ís of the United States of America